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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE
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126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to H.P. 982, L.D. 1383, Bill, "An Act To Improve the Delivery of Early Child Care and Education Services"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3737, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2001, c. 394, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Quality differential. To the extent permitted by federal law, the department shall pay a quality differential rate to eligible licensed child care providers for child care services funded under the federal Child Care and Development Fund and, as funding permits, for other child care services that meet the corresponding standards of the department's child care tiered quality rating and improvement system and that qualify based on step assignment and certification under the system for a period of time as established in rules adopted by the department. The department shall pay a child care provider that meets the highest level of standards a quality differential rate of at least 10% above standard rates. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in the last line (page 1, line 29 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "parameters." the following: "The providers of home visiting and other home-based family services participating in the collaborative process shall report on their progress to the department by January 1st of each year beginning in 2014. The department shall report on that progress to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by February 1st of each year beginning in 2014.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 4 to 6 and inserting the following:

Sec. 4. Head Start funding. State Head Start program funding must be targeted to the most at-risk children and families, including those who are affected by drugs or involved with the child welfare system, and to children with special needs. State funds must be used for Early Head Start program services when possible. Early Head Start

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1 program funding must be used for center-based services, unless otherwise negotiated with
2 the Department of Health and Human Services. The department shall direct all new Head
3 Start program funding appropriated for, or allocated for, Head Start program purposes for
4 fiscal year 2013-14 and fiscal year 2014-15 above the level of appropriations and
5 allocations made in the state budget for fiscal year 2011-12 and fiscal year 2012-13 to the
6 Early Head Start program for use by Early Head Start program enrollees.

7 **Sec. 5. At-risk children.** By January 1, 2014, the Child Care Advisory Council
8 shall recommend to the Department of Health and Human Services specific changes in
9 rules or policies governing child care services that will assist families with child care
10 when needed to allow parents to obtain needed health care treatment, including treatment
11 for mental illness and substance abuse, to reduce a child's potential exposure to adverse
12 childhood experiences and to ameliorate the consequences to the child of exposure to
13 adverse childhood experiences. The department shall adopt rules by April 30, 2014 that
14 improve child care services for children, taking into consideration the recommendations
15 of the Child Care Advisory Council. The timing of rulemaking may be modified to the
16 extent necessary to meet federal Child Care and Development Fund state plan
17 modification requirements. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical
18 rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

19 **Sec. 6. Child Care Advisory Council report.** The Child Care Advisory
20 Council shall include in its 2014 annual report pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes,
21 Title 22, section 3739 the recommendations to the Department of Health and Human
22 Services pursuant to section 4. The report must also provide an update on the funding
23 and use of the early childhood professional development registry.'

24 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
25 section number to read consecutively.

26 SUMMARY

27 This amendment makes a number of changes to the bill.

28 1. It removes all references to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
29 program from the bill.

30 2. It removes the section that would have required the Department of Health and
31 Human Services to amend its rules regarding child care rates.

32 3. It requires, in the provision regarding home visiting services collaboration, the
33 providers of home visiting and other home-based family services that receive funding
34 from the department to report annually to the department and requires the department to
35 report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over health and
36 human services matters.

37 4. It replaces the section that would have directed all new Head Start program
38 funding to the Early Head Start program with a requirement for state Head Start program
39 funding to be targeted to the most at-risk children and families. Early Head Start program
40 funding must be used for center-based services except when otherwise negotiated by the
41 department.

